GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1466
ANSWERED ON:04.03.2016
Rapid Survey of Children
Gogoi Shri Gaurav

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has commissioned the Rapid Survey on Children with the support of United Nations Children"s Fund (UNICEF) and if so, the details and findings thereof along with the methodology adopted therefor;

(b) whether the Government has released the complete report of survey in public domain, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has constituted a Committee/panel to re-examine /look into the findings of the said report including the methodology used in compiling the data, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the said Committee has submitted its report to the Government, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor along with the time by which the said Committee is likely to submit its report;

(e) the details of the positive and negative trends observed in various key indicators used in this survey; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to improve the indicators in which negative trends are observed?

Answer

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI)

(a) Rapid Survey on Children (RSOC) was commissioned by the Ministry of Women and Child Development across 29 States during 2013-14 with technical assistance from UNICEF India. Key objective of the survey was to assess the situation of children and women with a special emphasis on access and utilization of services under the ICDS Scheme and to provide baseline data for the restructured ICDS Scheme.

Methodology used for RSOC is a multi-stage stratified random sampling survey, catering to provide national and state estimates by residence (rural/urban).
Summary of key findings of RSOC 2013-14 is at Annexure −I.
(b) to (d) The National and State level fact sheets in respect of key indicators on maternal and child health and nutrition, and access and usage of ICDS services were made available by UNICEF to the Ministry during August 2014. The national fact sheet was disseminated by uploading on the Ministry"s website on 2nd July 2015. On request of Ministry of Women and Child Development, a Technical Sub-Group led by MoSPI with Members from MoHFW, NITI Aayog and MWCD reviewed the state level data with regards to validity of the sampling design and the methodology and submitted its report on RSOC on 7th August 2015, following which the State level fact sheets on RSOC and National level fact sheets with details of sample sizes, design effect, standard errors, number of primary sampling units (PSUs) were disseminated by uploading on the website of the Ministry of Women & Child Development (wcd.nic.in) on 12th August 2015.

A positive trend has been observed in respect of improvement in key health and nutrition indicators (child nutrition and maternal health) at the national level, in comparison to the last held national survey viz., NFHS-III during 2005-06. As per the findings of the survey, stunting has reduced to 38.7% (NFHS-III : 48%), while and underweight and wasting reduced to 29.4% (NFHS-III: 42.5%) and 15.1% (NFHS-III : 19.8%) respectively.

Specific recommendations of the Technical Sub-Group were to make unit level data available in public domain for use by academicians, researchers and others with a caution to the users against making comparison of estimates of RSOC with estimates of other surveys; Metadata for each of the indicators should be made available to the users for appropriate usage. Further, committee recommended that for each of the States, a sheet containing population of the State, number of PSUs selected, number of households surveyed, duration of the field work and other relevant details like number of Ever Married Women (EMW), total number of children in the age group 12-23 months, number of children 0-59 months from whom anthropometric measurements were taken, etc. should be given along with their respective sources. Design effect and standard error on core indicators for each of the States should be given along with the results was also part of the recommendations.
(e) Summary of trends observed in various indicators used in the survey is at Annexure-II.
(f) With a view to address malnutrition and strengthen ICDS, the scheme was restructured and strengthened during 2012. A number of new components including revision of financial norms of SNP and sensitising the community about nutrition and healthy practices were introduced. The goal of restructured ICDS is to (i) Prevent and reduce young child under-nutrition (% underweight children 0-3

years) by 10 percentage point; (ii) Enhance early development and learning outcomes in all children 0-6 years of age; and (iii) Improve care and nutrition of girls and women and reduce anaemia prevalence in young children, girls and women by one fifth.

In addition, the Food and Nutrition Board of the Ministry, through its 43 regional field units, is engaged in conducting training programme in nutrition, in addition to advocacy towards generating awareness through Nutrition Education Programmes on the importance of healthy balanced diets especially through the use of locally available foods, mass awareness campaigns and use of electronic and print media. The main aim of all these activities is to improve nutritional outcomes and bring down the level of malnutrition in the country especially among women and children.

******